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INAUGURAL CYPRUS GATEWAY VOYAGE®

by Linda Leblanc

Linda Leblanc, a graduate of four TMI residential courses, is co-founder of Psychognosia, a privately funded, nonprofit multidisciplinary research and information center for the study of psychic phenomena, based on the Eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Psychognosia, which means "mind-spirit" and "knowledge" in Greek, organized the first Cypriot GATEWAY VOYAGE® *for English speakers in March 1999.*

A piece of TMI history was made on the Eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus when the first European English *GATEWAY VOYAGE,* offered under the auspices of TMI-Europe, took place March 20-26, 1999. The location was the peaceful countryside village of Droushia, whose name is derived from the Greek word drous, meaning oak tree. The mighty oak is a fitting symbol for the transformative effect that *GATEWAY* can have on participants. Against a scenic backdrop of mountains and sea, a small but enthusiastic group gathered in a family-run hotel located at the picturesque western tip of Cyprus. Pablo Arango, TMI-Europe program director, and trainers Sylvestre Gorniak and Lana Phillips guided the group with that renowned Monroe Institute expertise. The TMI-Europe staff brought their own broadcasting system, which permitted participants to listen to the tapes in their individual hotel rooms.

Cyprus is rich in history, with archaeological sites dating back over 8,000 years, and is the birthplace of the mythological goddess of love, Venus (or Aphrodite, as she was known to the Greeks). There have been many reported sightings of unidentified flying objects near Droushia. The village is also famous for its spectacular outcrops of orange-colored rocks which are geologically a part of the African tectonic plate—one of several plates that converge here. During the *VOYAGE* week, unusual thunderstorms and some gentler showers broke a five-year drought. The sky cleared on the last day and revealed the uncommon sight of Turkey's snow-capped mountains, a mere forty miles across the sea to the north—an appropriate parallel to our own clearer vision at the conclusion of a *GATEWAY VOYAGE*. On our final evening, the group gathered around one of the dramatic rock formations at sunset. The light of the planet Venus shone down on us. As we grounded ourselves at the end of a life-changing week, heaven and earth seemed to support our closure.

The participants, all residents of Cyprus, were uniform in their praise of the program. Some of them indicated that *GATEWAY* had exceeded their expectations. One participant had wanted to do a *GATEWAY* in Virginia since 1991 and felt that having the program come to him was especially significant! Another's goal was "to gain deeper insight into other states of consciousness, to learn more about OOBEs, and to see if previous experiences were confirmed." In his view, to a "very great extent these expectations had been met."

Other comments included:

“When I came to the *GATEWAY* I had a purpose. But I was wondering if it would be easy for me to accomplish it or if it was too unreal. But with all those tools I got from here, I can accomplish everything I want in my life. The instructors were excellent, not only as instructors but as human beings. I am leaving *GATEWAY* today, and I know that a new life begins for me full of light.”

“An eye-opener of a course. Jump in and feel the water.”

“I sincerely recommend the *GATEWAY* program to anyone who wants to truly ‘know themselves’— especially those who think they already do!”

As part of the continuing expansion which is bringing Hemi-Sync® to more and more people throughout the world, Pablo Arango and Sylvestre Gorniak have been organizing and conducting European *GATEWAY VOYAGE* (*PASSAGE*) programs for French speakers since 1996. TMI-Europe is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and plans to make the *GATEWAY VOYAGE* available throughout Europe in several languages. For more information on TMI-Europe and Psychognosia, visit their websites at: http://www.tmieurope.org and http://www.psychognosia.com

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